

*Legislation would remove obstacles fans face in owning professional sports teams*

*Washington, DC* – Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (OR-03) and Congresswoman Janice Hahn (CA-36) reintroduced the “Give Fans a Chance” Act. The legislation would bar professional sports leagues from putting up unfair obstacles to fan ownership of sports franchises and gives communities the opportunity to act before a team is moved.

“The millions of Americans who are committed to their hometown sports teams are tired of being pushed around by the handful of billionaires who control major league franchises,” **said Rep. Blumenauer**

. “Communities across the country should get the chance to have a stake in their teams and a say in their future. It's time to give fans a seat at the table.”

“I think it’s time to occupy Major League Baseball,” **said Rep. Hahn**. “This legislation would simply give fans the chance, in all professional sports, to own their local sports franchise. It is sad when community institutions are subjected to the financial whims of owners who are not part of the community and use teams as their personal piggy bank. Now is the perfect time to give fans the opportunity to have their voice heard.”

The Green Bay Packers of the National Football League are currently the only publicly owned major sports franchise in the country. The Packers have an 80,000 person waiting list for season tickets and have sold out nearly 300 home games in a row.

This week Major League Baseball announced that it has reached an agreement with Los Angeles Dodgers owner Frank McCourt to sell the team following a stint in bankruptcy.

Congresswoman Hahn has long supported giving fans the opportunity to own the Los Angeles Dodgers. As a member of the Los Angeles City Council, Congresswoman Hahn led the effort on a city resolution supporting public ownership. Her father, Los Angeles Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, played a crucial role in bringing the Dodgers to Los Angeles in 1958.

Several minor league baseball teams are publicly owned, run as charitable foundations, or operated as a trust. This includes the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, the Harrisburg Senators, the Memphis Redbirds, the Rochester Red wings, Syracuse SkyChiefs and Toledo Mud Hens.

The full text of the bill can be found online [here](#) .